

Michigan  
Department  
of Human  
Services

Prepared by the  
DHS Office of  
Communications  
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# Articles in Today's Clips

**Tuesday, June 10, 2008**

(Be sure to maximize your screen to read your clips)

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## Young mother accused of trying to suffocate baby at University of Michigan hospital

Posted by [spepple](#) June 10, 2008 06:56AM



April Palmer is charged with trying to suffocate daughter in hospital bed. A mother is charged with trying to suffocate her 2-month-old daughter while the infant was being treated at the University of Michigan's [C.S. Mott Children's Hospital](#) in Ann Arbor over the weekend, police said.

The baby remains hospitalized and was listed in good condition Monday.

April Palmer, 21, of Ypsilanti, was arraigned on attempted murder and child abuse charges Sunday and remains at the Washtenaw County Jail on \$50,000 cash bond. She requested a public defender and a preliminary hearing is scheduled for June 18, court records show.

University of Michigan police arrested Palmer shortly after she was seen allegedly covering the baby's head with a pillow in a hospital room, public safety department spokeswoman Diane Brown said.

The hospital admitted Palmer's baby with life-threatening injuries after she brought her in about 10 days ago, Brown said. Doctors determined the injuries, which were not specified in police reports, were suspicious in nature and placed the baby under round-the-clock observation.

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Contact reporter Art Aisner at  
[aaisner@annarbornews.com](mailto:aaisner@annarbornews.com)  
or 734-994-6823.

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At about 12:15 a.m. Saturday, hospital staff called police after having to intervene with Palmer, Brown said.

It is not the first time this type of incident occurred at the hospital.

Authorities charged Jennifer Sexten with first-degree child abuse in 2004 after she was caught tampering with feeding tubes attached to her 1-year-old son while he was a patient. She pleaded guilty to third-degree child abuse and was sentenced to five years probation, records show.

If convicted, Palmer faces up to life in prison on the attempted murder charge, and up to two years on the abuse charges.

Categories: [Crime](#), [Top Stories](#)

### Comments

**maramel says...**

If a child is admitted to the hospital with a "suspicious" injury or condition, why is the parent allowed to be with the child UNSUPERVISED? Duh?

Posted on 06/10/08 at 8:40AM

**midNorth says...**

Did you even read the article? Does "round-the-clock observation" sound unsupervised? Does seen covering the baby's head sound "unsupervised"? Put a little thought into your posts and read the article.

Posted on 06/10/08 at 9:04AM

**maramel says...**

Yes, I read the article. Round the clock observation refers to MEDICAL observation, not security. Apparently, the mother was NOT SUPERVISED while she attempted to suffocate her child. READ THE ARTICLE, and have a nice day.

Posted on 06/10/08 at 9:56AM

**peonylover says...**

The article doesn't give us enough information to blame the hosipital--maybe there was indeed a staff person right in the room and everything happened in the blink of an eye...just because the initial injuries were deemed (correctly, obviously) "suspicious" doesn't meant that the mom was not allowed to be in the same room...gotta give the hospital staff the benefit of the doubt with this, I think...

Such a sad, sad story.

Posted on 06/10/08 at 11:49AM

**AAjoker says...**

"Suspicious injuries" means there is a need for additional investigations, she is not guilty until proven as such; which has now happened.

Posted on 06/10/08 at 12:23PM

Footer

Jun 10, 12:37 PM EDT

## Rapist's lawsuit proceeds against Michigan jail guards

By DAVID EGGERT  
Associated Press Writer

LANSING, Mich. (AP) -- A federal appeals court in Ohio is letting a convicted child rapist continue with a lawsuit that accuses Livingston County guards of allowing other inmates to beat him up.

Shaun Leary of Pinckney says jail officers told inmates he was charged with raping a 9-year-old girl. He also alleges the officers told him there would be no protection from jail guards if he was attacked.

Inmates later beat Leary severely. He was treated at the hospital for facial fractures and a skull fracture.

The 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals says Tuesday that Leary's suit can continue against a guard whom he says told two inmates what Leary had been charged with. Guards had claimed governmental immunity.

Leary, 30, is serving a prison term on the rape charges.

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## Grand Rapids man faces trial today for brother's stabbing death

Posted by [destep](#) June 10, 2008 06:04AM

GRAND RAPIDS -- More than two years after 36-year-old Moise Taylor was stabbed to death in his home at 730 Diamond Ave. NE, his brother's murder trial was to begin today.

Iatonda Taylor, 37, is charged with open murder for the May 2006 stabbing death. He is slated for a nonjury trial before Kent County Circuit Judge George Buth.

Police say Iatonda Taylor killed his brother after Moise Taylor allowed him to move into his home in February 2006. Iatonda Taylor previously had been released from a psychiatric hospital.

The defendant, who had a history of violence, was hospitalized after he stabbed his girlfriend four years ago, carjacked a vehicle and led police on a chase before he cut his own throat.

Categories: [Breaking News](#)

### Comments

Footer

# Damarcus Maclin, 16, faces open murder charge for stabbing death of his brother Kaleb Maclin, 21

by Bryn Mickle | The Flint Journal  
Monday June 09, 2008, 9:04 PM

**FLINT, Michigan** -- A 16-year-old boy faces murder charges over claims he stabbed his older brother to death in a fight over an iPod and a cellphone.

Police were called to the Avon Park apartment complex on Lapeer Road near Court Street just before midnight Saturday and found Kaleb J. Maclin with stab wounds.

The 21-year-old was taken to Hurley Medical Center where he died. His brother, Damarcus Maclin, was arrested hours later and will face open murder charges as an adult.

Genesee County Prosecutor David S. Leyton called the slaying "tragic." "It harkens back to Cain and Abel," said Leyton, who said he decided to charge Damarcus as an adult because of the "grievous" facts of the case.

The pair were apparently arguing when Damarcus allegedly grabbed a knife from the kitchen and attacked his brother, officials said. An arrest warrant for Damarcus was sworn out Monday and he is expected to be arraigned today Tuesday.

He is being held at the Regional Detention Center in Flint Township. Funeral services for Maclin are set for noon Friday at Joy Tabernacle, 731 E. Hamilton Ave.

*Staff writer Ashley A. Smith contributed to this report.*

## Man charged after police standoff

Posted by [Local reports | The Muskegon Chronicle](#) June 08, 2008  
01:16AM

Categories: [Breaking News](#)

MASON COUNTY -- A 51-year-old Ludington man charged after a 2½-hour police standoff Thursday has posted bond.

Mark Mitchell Weiler, of 147 S. Wildwood Run, Apartment 17, was arraigned in 79th District Court on a charge of assault with a dangerous weapon.

The Mason County Sheriff's Department reported that he allegedly held a gun to his girlfriend's head and then wouldn't come out of his apartment afterward.

Police later found guns in the apartment and a grenade, which turned out not to be a live weapon.

Weiler posted \$1,500, or 10 percent of the \$15,000 bond that was set. His next court date is a June 18 preliminary examination.

# AmeriCorps Members Revitalizing Benton Harbor Community

June 10, 2008 9:17 AM EDT

*BENTON HARBOR, Mich., June 10 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ --* On Wednesday, June 11th and Thursday, June 12th more than 250 current Michigan's AmeriCorps members from all over the state will focus on rejuvenating Benton Harbor's neighborhoods. As part of the 2008 Russ Mawby Signature Service Project, AmeriCorps members will apply their service skills at Harbor Habitat for Humanity sites in the Crystal Estates neighborhood. Projects will include landscaping, building sheds, constructing subfloors, and framing.

"We thank Michigan's AmeriCorps for choosing Benton Harbor to host this year's Signature Service Project," said Mike Green, executive director of Harbor Habitat for Humanity. "Their time and enthusiasm will help us jumpstart the Crystal Estates neighborhood. This unique service opportunity is another example of how Benton Harbor remains a 'City of Promise'."

The 2008 Signature Service Project is a partnership between Michigan's AmeriCorps, Habitat for Humanity of Michigan, and Harbor Habitat for Humanity. The SSP is an annual event serving a different community each year. Michigan's AmeriCorps is a program of the Michigan Community Service Commission, a state agency that helps strengthen communities by building a culture of volunteer service.

"When you see AmeriCorps members in action during the Signature Service Project and serving in their local communities, it's a powerful demonstration of how volunteerism is changing Michigan's landscape for the better," said Musette A. Michael, executive director of the Michigan Community Service Commission. "Communities and organizations all over the state are able to achieve goals far beyond their normal capacity because of the service of nearly 1,000 AmeriCorps members in Michigan."



## *PHOTO OPPORTUNITY*

### *WHEN:*

Thursday, June 12, 2008

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

### *WHERE:*

Crystal Estates neighborhood in Benton Harbor

911 S. Crystal Ave.

Benton Harbor, MI 49022

### *WHAT:*

AmeriCorps members will landscape, build sheds, construct subfloors, and frame for Harbor Habitat for Humanity.

## *BACKGROUND*

The Russ Mawby Signature Service Project is an annual event where AmeriCorps members from all around the state join together for a day of service. By the end of the day, many projects are completed, visibly demonstrating the impact of AmeriCorps members in action. This year's event is a partnership between Michigan's AmeriCorps, Habitat for Humanity of Michigan, and Harbor Habitat for Humanity.

*Michigan's AmeriCorps* is often described as the domestic Peace Corps. Individuals, called members, take on the challenges facing communities by serving within nonprofit organizations, schools, and other agencies throughout the state. They tutor and mentor children, help the homeless, feed the hungry, protect the environment, and more.

In a recent report released by the Michigan Community Service Commission, 2007 Michigan's AmeriCorps members:

- Completed over 700,000 hours of service and training.
- Recruited nearly 24,000 volunteers who served more than

188,000 hours.

- Impacted over 120,000 students, citizens, and volunteers.

Michigan's AmeriCorps, administered by the *Michigan Community Service Commission*, currently has 19 AmeriCorps programs and engages approximately 950 members. The MCSC builds a culture of service by providing vision and resources to strengthen communities through volunteerism.

In 2007-08, the MCSC granted more than \$5.9 million in federal and state funds to local communities for volunteer programs and activities. These funds support 19 AmeriCorps programs, 23 Learn and Serve programs, and 13 Volunteer Investment Grant recipients. The Governor's Service Awards and Mentor Michigan are also premier programs of the MCSC. The MCSC is housed in the Michigan Department of Human Services, whose mission is to assist children, families, and vulnerable adults to be safe, stable, and self-supporting.

*Harbor Habitat for Humanity* is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit, Christian housing ministry and an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International. It seeks to eliminate poverty housing, and to make decent and affordable shelter a matter of conscience and action. HHFH invites people from all walks of life to work together in partnership to build houses with families in need. Since its start in 1995, HHFH has built or renovated more than 73 houses throughout the city of Benton Harbor.

[www.michigan.gov/mcsc](http://www.michigan.gov/mcsc)



June 10, 2008

## Stacy Hanna: Cereal Festival couldn't come at a better time

On Saturday, area breakfast connoisseurs will gather at downtown tables to enjoy a meal on Tony — or Ralston or Post, depending on whose flakes you prefer in your cereal bowl or animated mascot you prefer on the box.

Hundreds of volunteers at Battle Creek's annual Cereal Festival and World's Longest Breakfast Table will serve up fruit, juice, Pop-Tarts and cereal, of course, filling thousands of bellies free of charge.

And the timing couldn't be better.

Not only is our community in need of a little community after a winter spent indoors, but the price of gasoline and groceries is soaring, and most of us are looking for ways to cut back on the cost of both. Many, however, might see Saturday's morning meal as more than just a low-cost (or free) outing with their family and friends. They might consider the annual tradition an opportunity to feed their family for free — one less expense in the weekly food budget.

Battle Creek shoppers, much like the rest of the country, have been hard hit by what some industry experts are calling the worst case of food inflation in 20 years.

Many of the items we all place in our shopping carts each week — ground beef, chicken, lettuce, milk, coffee, eggs and orange juice — are among the items that cost significantly more than in recent years, according to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Overall, food prices increased about 5 percent in 2007, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. That means a pound of coffee, on average, cost 57 cents more at year's end than in 2006. A 12-ounce can of frozen, concentrated orange juice now averages \$2.53 — a 67-cent increase in just two years.

The price of milk (the same stuff they'll be pouring over our cereal on Saturday) went up 26 percent in the past year and eggs jumped 40 percent. Forget about extras such as making cookies for your kids' class, many of us are having trouble just putting dinner on the table.

Luckily, in times of trouble, people everywhere use their creativity and resources to make the best of things — lemonade from lemons, if you can afford them — and local folks are no exception.

Among the laundry list of things we can do to save on food, such as employing strictly adhered-to grocery lists and diligent coupon cutting to our meal planning, many local programs offer assistance.

Among them, Angel Food Ministries is a nonprofit, non-denominational organization that sells boxes of high-quality groceries at less than their market rates. For instance, groceries that would cost upward of \$60 at the supermarket are available for about \$30 a box. The service is available at several area churches, there is no limit to the number of boxes purchased and no special income qualifications are required.

For people ages 60 and older and living below the poverty level, Calhoun County's Michigan State University Extension office distributes Senior Project FRESH coupons. The vouchers are worth \$20 in produce and are redeemable at local farmers markets.

And of course, the Food Bank of South Central Michigan works with a long list of local agencies to provide food for local residents and programs.

So, whether or not your pocketbook could benefit from a free meal, join your neighbors for breakfast

on Saturday.

Stacy Hanna can be reached at 966-0468 or [sthanna@battlecr.gannett.com](mailto:sthanna@battlecr.gannett.com).

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# **Oakland County Holds Elder Abuse Walk**

POSTED: 2:02 pm EDT June 9, 2008

UPDATED: 2:19 pm EDT June 9, 2008

The Oakland County Serving Adults Who Are Vulnerable and Elderly (S.A.V.E.) is hosting a Walk in the Park at 10 a.m. on Friday at Riverside Park in Auburn Hills.

The walk is intended to raise awareness of elder abuse and is being held in conjunction with the third International Elder Abuse Awareness Day. The Elder Abuse Task Force is comprised of individuals from various agencies and organizations who have a stake in elder care issues. Serving as co-chair of the group is Oakland County Circuit Judge Edward Sosnick. Serving as an honorary co-chair of the S.A.V.E. Task Force is Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson.

The S.A.V.E. Task Force that was formed in 2005 utilizes a multi-disciplinary, team-oriented approach to address the problem of elder abuse and neglect. The group has received financial assistance from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan to promote awareness and education on the topic of elder abuse.

There will be a concert featuring Terrie Lea and the Mustangs after the walk. Riverside Park is located at 3311 Squirrel Court.

For additional information on this event, please call Dr. Gloria Cruice at 248-651-1840.

Visit [www.oakgov.com/seniors](http://www.oakgov.com/seniors) and click on Save-Elder Abuse Prevention.



## Nathaniel Abraham back in court today

BY JOHN WISELY • FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER • JUNE 10, 2008

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Nathaniel Abraham, one of the youngest convicted murderers in Michigan history, will be back in court this afternoon to face drug charges.

Abraham, 22, faces a 1:30 p.m. preliminary examination in front of Pontiac District Judge Michael Martinez.

Pontiac Police and Michigan State Police troopers arrested Abraham May 30 outside a gas station on North Perry Street, where they say they witnessed Abraham selling drugs to a man on a bicycle. When police arrested him, they found a Crown Royal whiskey bag containing more than 250 tablets of the club drug ecstasy.

Abraham was 11-years-old in November 1997 when he was charged with murder for the shooting death of 18-year-old Ronnie Greene. He was convicted two years later of second-degree murder but sentenced as a juvenile. He was released last year when he turned 21.

Return to [freep.com](http://freep.com) for more details throughout the day.

## Bikes stolen from refugee family offer lesson in hope

Posted by [dphawkin](#) June 08, 2008 04:04AM



Press Photo/Katie BarnesStill smiling: Two bicycles were stolen from Samson Ndimurwanko and his son Hussein, 7, above. Hussein now rides a bike he borrows from a neighbor.

Welcome to America, Samson Ndimurwanko and family, to the land of the free, home of the brave.

And, unfortunately, bike thieves.

Not that this isn't a better place to live compared to where the family came from.

But did someone really need a bike more than Samson, a refugee his entire life who has witnessed and survived all manner of horror and indignity, who enjoyed a two-wheeler to pedal to his new job here in the States?

Or more than his 7-year-old son, Hussein, a kid with a gap-toothed smile for whom a bicycle represented unbridled freedom?

Sometime in late May, someone crept into the backyard of the Kentwood apartment that houses Samson and his family of five, cut the locks from the bikes and swiped both.

At least it's a family used to suffering and loss.

Samson, 32, grew up in the war-torn African country of Rwanda, where killings in the past have known no bounds. "The worst?" he answers through an interpreter. "I was getting baptized, and I was the last one in the water. Suddenly, a bomb went off in the church. Almost everyone died."

**Want to get involved?**  
Call Mars Hill Bible Church  
at 249-3337, or send an e-  
mail to  
[marshillrefugee@gmail.com](mailto:marshillrefugee@gmail.com)

"So many people I saw killed," he says. "And I could do nothing about it."

Samson Ndimurwanko and his wife, Marcelline, 26, lived as nomads, fleeing persecution in Rwanda as well as Burundi, Kenya and the Congo before settling into a refugee camp in Tanzania.



Press Photo/Katie BarnesAt home: Samson Ndimurwanko, right, and his son Hussein stand in front of their home in Kentwood. Ndimurwanko's family, including his wife and two younger children, has been in the U.S. since last fall and previously lived in a refugee camp in Tanzania.

Last fall, their dreams of better times and a life of hope crystallized with the opportunity to come here, thanks to a cooperative effort between Bethany Christian Services and Mars Hill Bible Church in Grandville.

### **Protecting valuables**

For 10 days or so, they stayed with host family Bob and Marcia Fosburg of Georgetown Township.

"The first thing they did was hide everything in their rooms," remembers Marcia, 48. "That's how it was in Africa; they had to hide everything."

The Fosburgs showed the family -- which also includes Diane, 4, and Damiano, 8 months -- how to lock up the pair of bikes donated by church member Al Northouse.

But they didn't count on someone armed with bolt cutters.

The bikes, valued at about \$300, can be replaced. Still, "it's a question of where do you put your resources," says Bob Fosburg, 50.

It's a valid concern, especially when so many people are in want of basic human essentials such as food, water, shelter and medicine.

Then there's the larger question of explaining to a family who thought they finally had landed safely that bad things happen everywhere.

"Here are people who have nothing," says Marcia Fosburg, "who knew nothing of Western culture, of how to use our bathroom or even much about electricity, and the little bit that they do have gets stolen."

### **Getting around**

Samson, who has no car or driver's license, used his gently worn Schwinn to fetch groceries and to get to his job at Butterball Farms on Buchanan Avenue SW. "The bike got him pretty much everywhere," says Bob Fosburg.

As for young Hussein, "I liked to ride it in front of the house, to have fun," he told interpreter Patricia Rukundo, 15, a native of Rwanda now enrolled at East Kentwood High School, and a neighbor to the family.

"His mom told him that his bike was stolen," says Patricia, "and now he's just sad."



Maybe that says it best.

Sad that a family living on the edge can't even depend on two-wheeled transportation to make a little go of it.

Sad, too, to think of what use the bad guy or guys put the bikes to. Tossed in a creekbed for laughs? Fenced for a few beers?

You might expect a man like Samson to be angry, and he is, according to Patricia the interpreter.

But he told her something else as well. That compared to the squalor he and his family escaped, this country shines.

"I like the U.S. he says, "in every way."

So much so, that he now yearns to attend school some day. He's not sure what sort of occupation or degree he'd pursue, but the man who now pinches pennies to ride the bus did say this:

"I just want to be someone who helps people."

Categories: [Breaking News](#)

## Comments

Footer



June 10, 2008

## ID requirement hurts families' quest for aid

A federal citizenship documentation requirement has hurt Michigan families in need of public and medical assistance, and there's no proof that it is identifying large numbers of undocumented immigrants. That's the conclusion of a new report from the Michigan League for Human Services.

In April 2007, Michigan implemented the requirement that citizens provide specific documents to prove their citizenship before receiving Medicaid, a public health insurance program for the poor. Michigan also applied the rule to the Family Independence Program, the state's public assistance plan, although it was not required by the federal law to do so. Non-citizens claiming Medicaid as legal immigrants have always been required to prove their immigration status.

The requirement was meant to keep undocumented immigrants from receiving full benefits. The League concludes that it's keeping away those who simply can't find their or their child's birth certificates or other documentation -- or afford the cost of copies.

After the requirement was implemented, caseloads immediately began to drop, despite rising need as evidenced by Michigan's unemployment rate, the highest in the country, and a growing poverty rate. Food Assistance -- which does not routinely require citizenship documentation -- is at a record high with one in every eight residents receiving food stamps.

A six-state study by the U.S. Committee on Oversight and Government Reform found that \$8.3 million in federal funds had been spent to implement the requirement while only eight undocumented immigrants receiving Medicaid were uncovered in those states. A separate audit of 1,752 Michigan cases found one citizenship error in the Medicaid program.

Those having difficulty with the requirement should contact a local legal aid office or call (800) 968-0738 to locate free legal services.

JUDY PUTNAM

Michigan League of Human Services

Lansing, June 5

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MIRS Capitol Capsule, Monday, June 9, 2008

<http://www.mirsnews.com/capsule.php?gid=1012&printable=1> 6/10/2008

### **Autism Research Check-off Bills Advanced**

Legislation establishing a state income tax check-off donation for an autism research fund moved Thursday from the Senate Finance Committee.

Sens. Tupac **HUNTER** (D-Detroit) and Buzz **THOMAS** (D-Detroit) testified on **SB 0957** and **SB 0958**.

"With our country's startling autism rate of roughly one in every 150 children born, this is an epidemic that we simply cannot ignore," said Hunter.

"Through new research, we may be able to find ways to treat this disease, and this legislation will allow Michigan residents the opportunity to lend their support in furthering research and raising awareness for autism."

The money, interest and earnings of the fund could only be expended for promoting autism-related research and publicizing research results on autism triggers and diagnosing and treating autism. Proceeds would also provide grants to Michigan hospitals specializing in the research, diagnosis, and treatment of autism; institutions of higher learning devoted to conducting autism research; and other Department of Community Health approved organizations for autism research.

Hunter also has been pushing insurance and health care coverage for autism-related services with **SB 0784** and **SB 0785**.



June 10, 2008

## At the Capitol: Legislature firms up 2009 budget; outlines less than pleasing

### Our opinions

The Legislature's supposed to be in the stretch run on a 2009 budget to finance vital state services and advance critical policy improvements.

Work done on key accounts is less than encouraging. The 2009 budget is shaping up as another year in which the state spends far too much on prisons and not enough on higher education; a year in which struggling local governments are again left high and dry.

Less than a month ago, lawmakers got the gloomy news that previously optimistic revenue projections were too optimistic. The May estimates left the Legislature \$400 million in the hole for the coming year.

That has, predictably, left a number of initiatives hanging, such as Gov. Jennifer Granholm's idea to fund smaller high school academies.

But the crisis goes even deeper. This 2009 budget does not reflect any serious rearrangement of Michigan's spending priorities.

For example, it appears Michigan will spend about \$2 billion in general fund monies for the Department of Corrections. That's roughly one quarter of the entire general fund.

In 1973, the state spent \$38 million on the Corrections Department and 1 in 20 state workers was with Corrections. Now, it's \$2 billion and 1 in 3 state workers is with Corrections.

Those choices send repercussions through every other state responsibility.

State leaders, on the campaign trail anyway, talk about investment in high-tech and college access. Yet, the 2009 budgets for universities and community colleges sure look like more of the same underfunded status quo.

Community Health does stand to get an overall budget increase, but will actually get fewer general fund dollars under the House plan.

Legislators are struggling to put a number to an increase in per-pupil aid for public schools. It's hard, though: The House passed a budget that calls for more money than the state is currently expected to have for that account.

Then there's revenue sharing, the state's responsibility to aid local governments to provide the services citizens use every day.

Granholm had proposed a 4 percent increase in the statutory (or discretionary) revenue sharing funds - or about \$16 million more. Even that figure has fallen to legislative axes.

Belts must be tighter, sure. But consider a little calculation from the Michigan Municipal League.

If the state stuck to its proper formula, it would be sending about \$940 million in statutory sharing to local governments. The actual figure is closer to \$400 million - or half a billion less to put toward policing, fire protection, park operations, you name it.

So, in summary, the 2009 budget looks to be one with no major investments in education, no fundamental reorganization of prison policies, no hope for local governments.

The budget's not done. It could be better - or worse. It's unlikely lawmakers will reprise their summer impasse of 2007.

Still, is this the best Michigan can do; the best citizens can expect from lawmakers they trust - and pay - to lead?

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